

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 22, 2016

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

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### 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session opened on Monday, January 11, 2016

The Governor delivered his second State of the State Address which can be viewed

[HERE](#).

A list of the members of the House of Representatives and Senate can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links:

Members of the [House](#)

Members of the [Senate](#)

[Standing Committees](#) (Be sure to click on the committee to view the members as well as any posted meeting agendas or minutes for the committee.)

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### Schedules

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar [HERE](#)

[House Weekly Schedule](#)

Senate 2016 Committee Schedule List [HERE](#)

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### Deadlines

Senate [2016 Session Timeline](#)

You can watch Live Proceedings at:

[http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish\\_id=5](http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish_id=5)

Tuesday was the last day for Senate members to submit bill requests to the Legislative Council. Monday, 1/25 is the last day for House members to submit bill requests to Legislative Council.

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### Summary of Action

As of day twelve, 800 bills posted, none passed, none signed, 65 memorials or resolutions posted; none passed. Note: some of these bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will be tracked by the Council on Aging and appear on the Legislative Update web report. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It **does** mean that the topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

FULL List click [HERE](#)

Note: the **FULL List** web report provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and

updated on an ongoing basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This list will continue to be edited and updated as we have an opportunity to review the bills throughout the session. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

### **Tracking List Highlights**

(Summaries provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*)

#### **HB2178: Arizona silver-haired legislature**

Establishes the Arizona Silver Haired Legislature, a nonpartisan panel consisting of Arizona citizens who are at least 60 years of age and who are elected by their peers, to identify and discuss policy issues and annually submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The panel terminates on July 1, 2024. Appropriates \$60,000 from the general fund in FY2016-17 to the Arizona Silver Haired Legislature. 1/21 referred to the House Government & Higher Education Committee

#### **HB2179: critical health information; emergency responders**

Municipalities and counties are authorized to establish by ordinance a program to provide “emergency responders” (defined) with critical health information about program participants so that emergency responders may aid program participants who are involved in motor vehicle emergencies and accidents and who are unable to communicate. Program requirements are specified and program participants may be charged a nominal fee for program costs. 1/21 referred to the House Transportation& Infrastructure; Health Committees

#### **HB2329: appropriation; veterans’ services; veterans’ home**

Appropriates \$10 million from the general fund in FY2016-17 to the Department of Veterans’ Services for distribution to the City of Flagstaff for construction of a veterans’ home in Flagstaff. 1/21 referred to the House Military Affairs& Public Safety Committee

#### **SB1169: mental health power of attorney**

Text provided [HERE](#)

1/20 referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee

#### **SCR1005: rights of caregivers; recognition**

Text provided [HERE](#)

1/20 referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee

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### **Executive Budget**

**Governor Ducey** released the FY 2017 Executive Budget on Friday, January 15, 2016. The press release is provided [HERE](#) and a link to the Executive Budget Summary is found [HERE](#). The Governor’s recommendations include \$3 million to improve Adult Protective Services casework efficiency and reduce investigator caseload; reinstate the ALTCS adult preventive dental benefit for the developmentally disabled; restore preventive dental benefits for elderly and physically disabled ALTCS patients.

## Other fiscal news

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee/JLBC**

**JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights January (1/20/16)** provided [HERE](#) reports “For FY 2017, with General Fund revenues of \$10.0 billion and spending of \$9.37 billion, the budget has a projected FY 2017 cash balance of \$625 million.”

**JLBC Baseline – Executive Comparison** is found [HERE](#)

**Tracking Arizona’s Recovery January 2016** [HERE](#)

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### Share your thoughts!

If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions by contacting the:

- **Governor’s Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 outside Maricopa County only, or
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the Arizona State Legislature website and looking for: [How Do I Find or Contact my Legislators?](#)

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Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? Maps can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

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Other resources on the [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) website -

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#). Find and review bill text [HERE](#).

Learn about the budget process [HERE](#).

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [HERE](#).

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## FEDERAL OVERVIEW

### S.192

#### Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015

No further action since last *Legislative Update* was issued.

### H.R.22

#### Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform act of 2015

House Report 114-357 FAST Act provided [HERE](#)

On 12/4/2015, became Public Law No: 114-94.

### H.R.3761

#### Seniors Deserve A Raise Act

Introduced on 10/16/2015 by Representative Alan Grayson (FL-9)

The bill requires cost-of-living increases in any benefit under title II (Old-Age, Survivor, or Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act as well as military retirement and survivor benefits by any increase in the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly. In addition to any such increase, each such benefit shall be further increased by 2.9% on January 1, 2016, and shall remain in effect every year thereafter.

On 11/23/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

#### **H.R.3961**

##### **Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act of 2015**

Introduced on 11/5/2015 by Representative Peter A. DeFazio (OR-4)

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act.

11/6/2015 referred to Subcommittee on Health.

#### **H.R.4090**

##### **Health Care Choices for Seniors Act**

Introduced on 11/19/2015 by Representative Marsh Blackburn (TN-7)

To amend the Social Security Act to improve available to Medicare eligible seniors by permitting them to elect (instead of regular Medicare benefits) to receive a voucher for a health saving account, for premiums for a high deductible health insurance plan, or both and by suspending Medicare late enrollment penalties between ages 65 and 70.

On 11/20/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

#### **H.R.4121**

##### **Anti-hunger Empowerment Act of 2015**

Introduced on 11/19/2015 by Representative Jose E. Serrano (NY-15)

To amend the Food and Nutrition act of 2008 to provide greater access to the supplemental nutrition assistance program by reducing duplicative and burdensome administrative requirements, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to certain community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups for the purpose of establishing and implementing a Beyond the Soup Kitchen Pilot Program for certain socially and economically disadvantaged populations, and for other purposes.

On 12/18/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.

#### **S.1719**

##### **RAISE Family Caregivers Act**

Introduced on 12/1/2015 by Senator Susan M. Collins (ME)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain, and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy. HHS shall convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council to advise it on recognizing and supporting family caregivers. Federal departments and agencies must share with HHS any data they maintain that HHS needs to prepare the initial and updated Strategies.

On 12/9/2015, referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Related bill: H.R.3099

**S.1893****Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015**

Introduced on 7/29/2015 by Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)

To reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

On 1/5/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**Other legislation****H.R.4388****Behavioral Health Care Integration Act of 2016**

Introduced on 1/13/2016 by Representative David Loebsack (IA-2)

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a primary and behavioral health care integration grant program.

On 1/13/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**H.R.4349****Coordinating Crisis Care Act**

Introduced on 1/7/2016 by Representative Paul Tonko (NY-20)

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an institution for mental diseases bed registry program.

On 1/7/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**H.R.4273****Medicare and Medicaid Improvements and Adjustments Act of 2015**

Introduced on 12/16/2015 by Representative Gene Green (TX-29)

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve payments for hospital outpatient department services and complex rehabilitation technology and to improve program integrity, and for other purposes.

On 12/16/2015, referred to the House Ways and Means.

Related bill: S.2409

**H.R.4212****Community-Based Independence for Seniors Act of 2015**

Introduced on 12/10/2015 by Representative Linda T. Sanchez (CA-38)

To establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

On 12/11/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**H.R.4144****Seniors and Veterans Emergency (SAVE) Benefits Act**

Introduced on 12/1/2015 by Representative Tammy Duckworth (IL-8)

To provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

On 12/3/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

#### **H.R.4140**

##### **SENIORS Act of 2015 – Saving the Earnings and Noting the Investment of Our Retired Seniors**

Introduced on 12/1/2015 by Representative Frank C. Guinta (NH-1)

The bill expresses the sense of Congress on a cost-of-living increase to Social Security benefits for seniors.

On 12/4/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

#### **H.R.3091**

##### **Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act of 2015**

Introduced on 7/16/2015 by Representative Maxine Waters (CA-43)

Amends the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to revise provisions concerning the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program to direct the Attorney General: (1) through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist in paying for the costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and (2) in awarding grants, to give preference to national nonprofit organizations that have experience working with patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families.

On 12/15/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.

#### **S.2425**

##### **Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act**

Introduced on 12/18/2015 by Senator Rob Portman (OH)

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve payments for complex rehabilitation technology and certain radiation therapy services, to ensure flexibility in applying the hardship exception for meaningful use for the 2015 EHR reporting period for 2017 payment adjustments, and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

On 12/28/2015 Became Public Law No: 114-115.

#### **S.2389**

##### **Preserve Access to Medicare Rural Home Health Services Act of 2015**

Introduced on 12/10/2015 by Senator Susan M. Collins (ME)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the rural add-on payment in the Medicare home health benefit, and for other purposes.

On 12/10/2015, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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If you want to check on the status of any federal legislation, go to

<http://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the bill number or title.

Check for **active federal legislation** at this [link](#).

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##### **Share your opinions with members of Congress!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your

Congressional Representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.  
Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

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**You can contact the White House** at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at:

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

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## **NEWS & RESOURCES**

From **Kaiser Health News**

**KHN Webinar: How to Cover Caregiving** found [HERE](#)

**Hospitals Step Up To Help Seniors Avoid Falls** [HERE](#)

See KHN coverage of aging and long-term care issues at *Aging News* posted [HERE](#)

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From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**  
*Friday Updates, January 22, 2016*

### **Supportive Services Demonstration for Elderly Households in HUD-Assisted Multifamily Housing**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it is making approximately \$15 million available to test a promising housing and services model for low-income seniors to age in their own homes and delay or avoid the need for nursing home care.

HUD's Supportive Services Demonstration for Elderly Households in HUD-Assisted Multifamily Housing will offer three-year grants to eligible owners of HUD-assisted senior housing developments to cover the cost of a full-time Enhanced Service Coordinator and a part-time Wellness Nurse. The purpose of the Demonstration is to test the effectiveness of this enhanced supportive services model for elderly households and to evaluate the value of enhanced service coordination paired with affordable housing for seniors. The demonstration will be independently evaluated to determine the impact of the enhanced supportive services model on: Aging in place in HUD-assisted senior developments; avoiding early transitions to institutional care, and; preventing unnecessary and often costly health care events-such as some emergency room visits and hospitalizations-for residents in HUD-assisted senior developments. Grant applications must be submitted electronically by **Monday, April 18, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. ET**.

[Click here](#) to view the full posting.

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From the **National Council on Aging**

Top 10 Financial Scams Targeting Seniors [HERE](#)

FY16 funding deal statement [HERE](#)

Press release: 5 ways Congress can support seniors [HERE](#)

Seniors Decide 2016: NCOA Toolkit [HERE](#)

Winterize to Prevent Falls [HERE](#)

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From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for more information.)

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From the **Administration for Community Living**

The theme of **Older Americans 2016** in May: *Blaze a Trail*.

For more information, including the evergreen OAM logo, click [HERE](#).

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In case you missed it...

**National Center on Caregiving** – resources [HERE](#)

From the **Family Caregiver Alliance** Fact and Tip Sheets [HERE](#)

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES**

*Arizona Alzheimer's State Plan – A Framework for Action* is provided [here](#).

**Profile of Older Arizonans** is provided by the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services

[HERE](#).

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**2016 Annual Conference on Successful Aging**

March 1, 2016, University of Arizona

More information: <http://psychology.arizona.edu/acosa>

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**Chandler Senior Expo**

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 9 a.m. to noon

More information [HERE](#)

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**Writing your Ethical Will**

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 9 am to Noon, TMC Senior Services/El Dorado Medical Center, 1400 N. Wilmot Rd, Tucson AZ

More information: <https://jfcstucson.org/ethical-will/>

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**Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest education conferences:**

[http://www.alz.org/dsw/in\\_my\\_community\\_events.asp](http://www.alz.org/dsw/in_my_community_events.asp)

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**Arizona 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Transit Conference** presented by AzTA & ADOT

April 10 – 12, 2016, High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, Arizona

More information: <http://www.azta.org/>

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Just in case you're interested

Past issues of the Legislative Update are linked on the Council website at:

<http://govtrans.az.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>



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You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

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**Enjoy your weekend. Go Arizona Cardinals!**  
**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

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